

# The TaNaCH

## TORAH

- Bereishit (In the beginning...) (Genesis)
- Shemot (The names...) (Exodus)
- Vayikra (And He called...) (Leviticus)
- Bamidbar (In the wilderness...) (Numbers)
- Devarim (The words...) (Deuteronomy)

## NEVI'IM (THE PROPHETS):

- Yehoshua (Joshua)
- Shoftim (Judges)
- Shmuel (I & II Samuel)
- Melachim (I & II Kings)
- Yeshaiyahu (Isaiah)
- Yirmiyahu (Jeremiah)
- Yechezkel (Ezekiel)
- The Twelve (treated as one book)
  - Hoshea (Hosea)
  - Yoel (Joel)
  - Amos
  - Ovadyah (Obadiah)
  - Yonah (Jonah)
  - Mikhah (Micah)
  - Nachum
  - Chavakuk (Habbakkuk)
  - Tzefanyah (Zephaniah)
  - Chaggai
  - Zecharyah (Zechariah)
  - Malachi

## KETUVIM (THE WRITINGS):

- Tehillim (Psalms)
- Mishlei (Proverbs)
- Iyov (Job)
- Shir Ha-Shirim (Song of Songs)
- Ruth
- Eichah (Lamentations)
- Kohelet (Ecclesiastes)
- Esther
- Daniel
- Ezra & Nechemia (Nehemiah) (treated as one book)
- Divrei Ha-Yamim (Chronicles)

## A. BIBLICAL

### *THE FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES (CHUMASH)*

#### **BERESHIT (GENESIS)**

##### **Pre-history before the Jewish people**

Creation of the World **3761 BCE** (*Genesis and the Big Bang*, Schroeder)  
Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and the Flood, Tower of Babel.

##### **The Beginning of the Ivrim-Hebrews/Israel - 1812 BCE**

##### **Avraham & Sarah**

- As compared to Noah - Why Avraham is the first Jew.
- 10 Tests culminating in the "Akeidah" Binding of Isaac
- Sarah - Yitzchak. Hagar - Ishmael (Arabs)

##### **Yitzchak and Rivkah**

- Quiet forefather

##### **Yaakov and Eisav Jacob/Esau (Edom... Rome)**

- Lavan switches daughters on Yaakov who marries both Rachel and Leah. Bilhah and Zilpa - maidservants and moms of 4 tribes.
- Jacob acquires birthright and. "steals" blessing from Esau
- 12 sons who become 12 tribes of Israel

**Yosef** - Dreams, sold as slave, rise to power in Egypt, family joins him in Egypt

#### **SHMOT (EXODUS)**

- Oppression of Jews by Egyptians
- Yitro & Tziporah - Moshe's father-in-law and wife
- Burning Bush- first meeting with God
- 10 plagues
- Leave Egypt and splitting of sea - **1312 BCE Rameses II**
- Manna
- 10 Commandments at Mt. Sinai
- Mishpatim - Social laws
- Tabernacle
- Golden Calf

#### **VA'YIKRA (LEVITICUS) - No Historical accounts given.**

- Offerings/Sacrifices
- Aaron appointed as High Priest
- Laws of Kashrut, Yom Kippur Service, Holidays, Forbidden sexual unions
- Shmittah - Sabbatical and Jubilee Year ("Proclaim liberty throughout the land")
- Laws of Holiness ("Love your neighbor as yourself")

## **BAMIDBAR (NUMBERS): 40 years in the desert**

- Census
- Spies report of Land of Israel leads to 40 years of wandering in the desert
- Conflicts Moshe has with Korach, Bilaam
- Punishment of Moses for hitting rock
- Appointment of Yehoshua/Joshua as successor
- Boundaries of Land of Israel

## **DEVARIM (DEUTERONOMY)**

- Final speech given by Moses whereby he recounts many of the incidents that took place during their 40 year travels in the desert.
- Reward & Punishment; Blessing & Curse
- Prophecy of Teshuva in the "End of Days"
- Moses blesses the 12 tribes

### *THE PROPHETS (NEVI'IM) AND THE WRITINGS (KETUVIM)*

## **JOSHUA 1273-1245 BCE**

- 2 spies sent to spy Land of Israel
- Destruction of walls of Jericho
- Conquering of Land of Israel. 7 years to conquer; 7 years to settle.

## **JUDGES 1245-1030 BCE - "Everyone doing whatever is right in his own eyes"**

- Differences between a Judge and a King
- Devora, Shimshon/Samson - Battle with Philistines/Gaza (Why Gaza not historically crucial like Judea and Samaria - West Bank)

## **THE BOOK OF SHMUEL/SAMUEL 1030 -973 BCE - Beginning of Monarchy**

### **Samuel & Saul**

- Jews request king, Saul appointed by Samuel
- Saul's fatal error - Refusal to kill Agag king of Amalek

### **David**

- From musician, no-name shepherd and armourbearer for Saul ... to Goliath,
- Saul's jealousy
- David & Jonathan - true friendship.
- David & Batsheva, Absalom (Avshalom)

## **THE BOOK OF KINGS 973-546 BCE**

### **Solomon 973 -933 BCE Author of Song of Songs, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes.**

- Wisdom, Builds First Temple
- Israel as a cosmopolitan state.
- Queen of Sheba and his (too) many wives
- The best of times to...

### **Division of Israel 930 BCE**

- Jeroboam & Rehoboam (Yeravam & Rechavam)
- Series of Kings in Judah & Israel
- Elijah the prophet coming to a Seder near you.

### **Isaiah, Jeremiah - The Role of Prophets**

- Isaiah, prophet of consolation and redemption **744 BCE**
- Ten lost tribes by Assyrians **722 BCE**
- Babylonian Exile **586 BCE**- Jeremiah

### **Ezekial, Daniel - Babylonian, Persian Exile**

- Kabbalah - Maaseh Merkavah vision.
- Interprets dreams of Nebuchadnezzar
- Handwriting on the wall
- Messianic visions

### **Ezra & Nechemia**

- Cyrus' decree to build Temple; completed **516 BCE**

### **Esther 400 BCE**

- Last book of Tanach/Bible chronologically.
- Overt prophecy vs. God's Hidden face.

## **B. HASMONEAN**

### **CHANUKAH**

- Alexander the Great
- Conflict of Ptolemy and Seleucid Empire
- Antiochus Epiphanies IV **175-163 BCE** and anti-Jewish decrees
- Matityahu and Yehuda Maccabee lead revolt
- Temple rededicated **164 BCE**, miracle of oil

### **TYPES OF SECTS - not unlike today**

- Pharisees, Sadducees, Zealots, Christians.

### **ROMAN RULE 67 BCE**

- Herod 37 - 4 BCE
- Jesus & Paul
- Revolt in 66-70 CE
- Second temple destroyed in 70 CE
- Massada 73 CE
- Bar Kochba Rebellion 132-135 CE

*From this point onwards until the creation of the State of Israel, all of Jewish History can be summed up in two words: Scholarship and Anti-Semitism.*

## C. TALMUDIC

### TANNAIM 8-200 CE

- Hillel and Shammai during reign of Herod; their schools 10-70 CE.
- *Mishna* - Rabbi Akiva begins compilation of Mishna 110-135, followed by R. Meir 135-170 and completed by Rabbi Yehuda Hanasi 188 CE.
- Zohar Compiled by Shimon Bar Yochai

### AMORAIM 200-590 CE

- 2 Main Centers of Jewish Life: Israel and Babylonia (Bavel)
- 279- Beginnings of writing of Jerusalem Talmud by R. Yochanan
- 350- Completion of Jerusalem Talmud
- 500- Completion of Babylonian Talmud

### GAONIM 589-1038

- Gaonim establish authority and begin Responsa work on the Talmud.
- Sa'adia Gaon 882-942 Book of Beliefs and Opinions - First work to codify Jewish philosophy.
- R. Shrirra Gaon 968- 1006 details process of transmission of Talmud from Moses until his day.

## D. EARLY MEDIEVAL

### UNDER ISLAM

- Muhammad 571-632
- Jew hatred in Islam - Pact of Omar, dhimmi, yellow badge

### SPAIN

- Rambam 1135-1204
  - Commentary on Mishna
  - Mishna Torah
  - Guide to the Perplexed
- Ramban 1250 (approx) - The Disputation
- Spanish Inquisition and Expulsion July 1492
  - Abarbanel 1437-1508

### CHRISTIAN ANTISEMITISM

- Crusades 1096
- Pope Innocent III 1215
- Torture of Wafer on "Desecration of the Host"
- Blood Libels
- Talmud Burning 1240 -24 Cartloads by Nicholas Donin
- Expulsions

## **FRANCE**

- Rabbenu Gershom's edicts
- Rashi 1040-1105 Troyes
- Tosaphists

## **GERMANY**

- 1298 - 140 Communities destroyed. 100,000 killed
- Black Death blamed on Jews
- Peter (apostate Jew) denounces Aleynu Prayer

## **E. LATE MEDIEVAL PERIOD**

### **LUTHER 1434 -1546**

- Break from Catholics and initial good toward Jews
- 8 Decrees against Jews

### **TZFAT 1488-1628**

- Joseph Karo 1488-1575 in 1567 Writes Shulchan Aruch
- Solomon Alkabetz composes Lecha Dodi
- The ARI, Isaac Luria foremost modern commentary on Kabbalah with student, Chaim Vital

### **CHMIELNITZKI MASSACRES 1648-1655**

### **SHABTAI TZVI 1626-1676 False Messiah**

### **CHASSIDIM AND MITNAGDIM 1700's to 1900's**

- Baal Shem Tov and the Vilna Gaon

## **F. MODERN ERA - Responses to Modernity**

### **MOSES MENDELSSOHN 1729-1786**

- Transliterates bible to German to enable Jews to move into secular society.
- Children convert to Christianity

### **CONVERSION TO CHRISTIANITY**

- To assimilate
- Marx, Disraeli, Herzl's plan

### **REFORM MOVEMENT 1841**

- Abraham Geiger

- Changes in Tenants of Judaism
- Samson Raphael Hirsch's Response to Reform I (1808-1888)

## AMERICA

- 1880-1924 2.5 million immigrants arrive  
Ellis Island and Lower East Side
- 1887 Beginning of Conservative Movement  
Solomon Schechter
- 1928 Beginning of Yeshiva University  
Joseph Soloveitchik
- Rav Moshe Feinstein
- Mordechai Kaplan - Reconstruction Judaism
- Chabad
- Baal Teshuva Movement: Artscroll

## HOLOCAUST

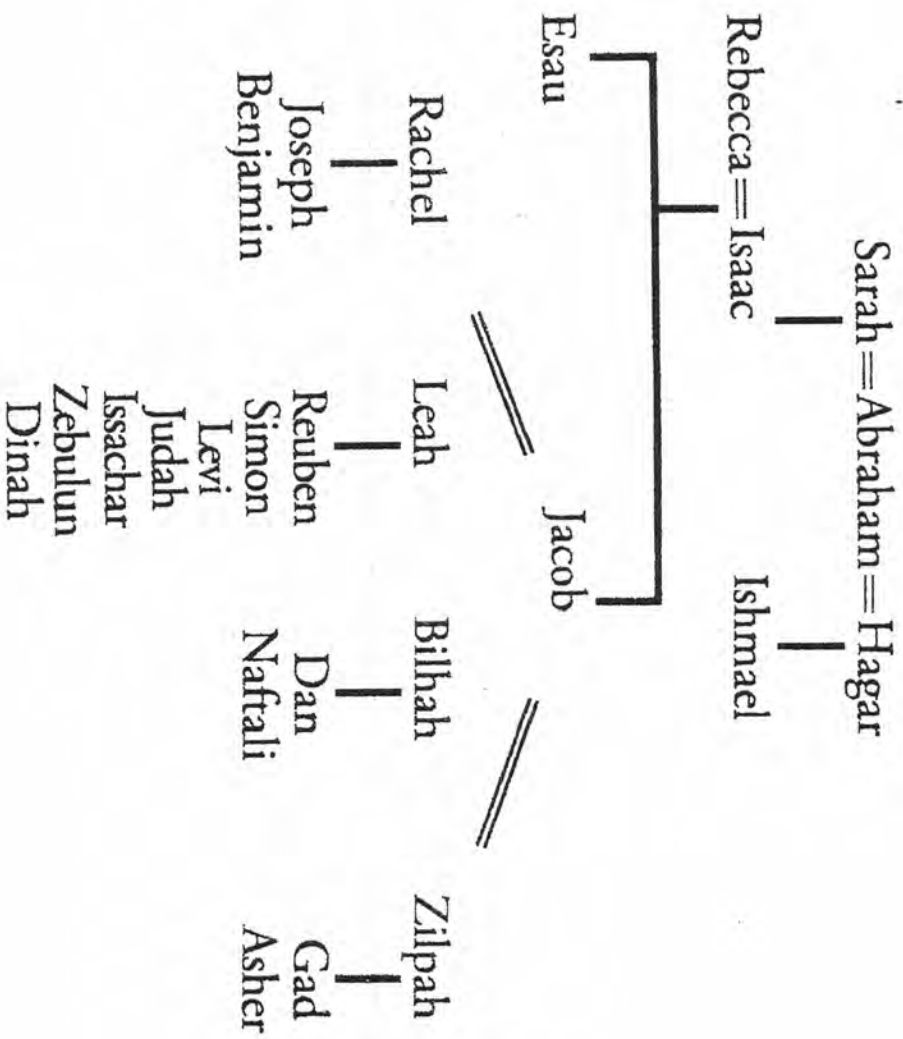
- Treaty of Versailles
- Rise of Hitler: Beer Hall Putsch; Mein Kampf; Nuremberg Laws
- 1938 Kristallnacht
- 1941-1945 Final Solution
- April 30, 1945 Hitler commits suicide
- 1946 Nuremberg Trials "Crimes against Humanity"
- 1960 Capture and Trial of Adolf Eichmann

## ISRAEL

- 1894 France Dreyfus affair
- 1860-1904 Herzl
- 1897 First Zionist Conference Basal, Switzerland
- 1903 British offer Uganda as Jewish homeland
- 1917 Balfour Declaration
- 1922 League of Nations confirm Balfour
- 1939 White Paper
- 1947 Partition plan by UN
- 1948 5<sup>th</sup> of Iyar (May 14) UN votes for Israel as a nation

# FAMILY TREE OF EARLY JEWISH PEOPLE

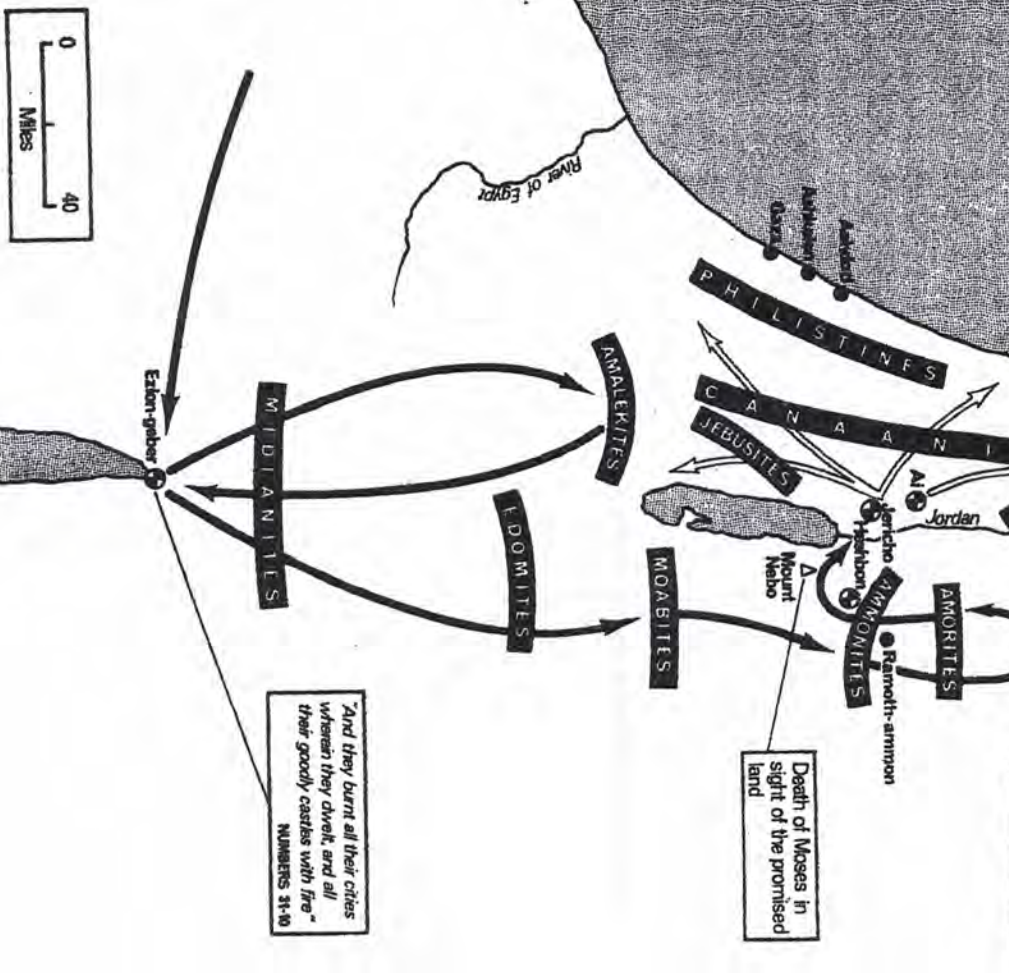
Abraham through the twelve sons of Jacob





# ENTERING THE PROMISED LAND

- █ Non-Israelite tribes
- ➔ The Israelites led by Moses
- ➔ The Israelites after the death of Moses
- Principal cities taken by siege



"Ye shall drive out all the inhabitants before you... and ye shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land, and dwell therein... and ye shall divide the land by lot for an inheritance among your families"  
**GOD TO THE JEWS, NUMBERS 33:33-34**

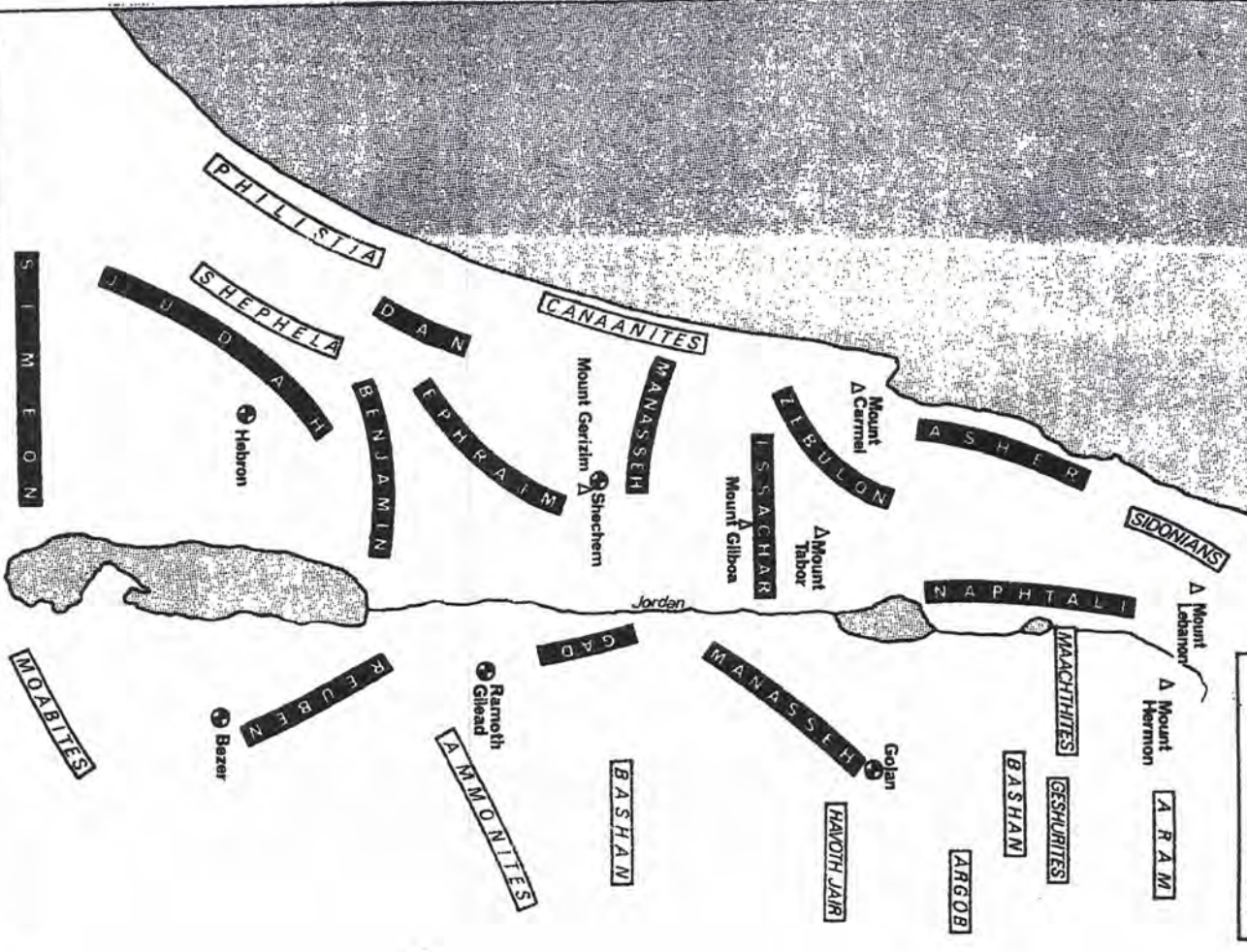
"...utterly destroying the men, women and children of every city"  
**DEUTERONOMY 3:6**

Death of Moses in sight of the promised land

"And they burnt all their cities whensn they dwelt, and all their goodly castles with fire"  
**NUMBERS 31:10**

# THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL

- █ The tribes of Israel
- "Cities of refuge"
- Other tribes and areas

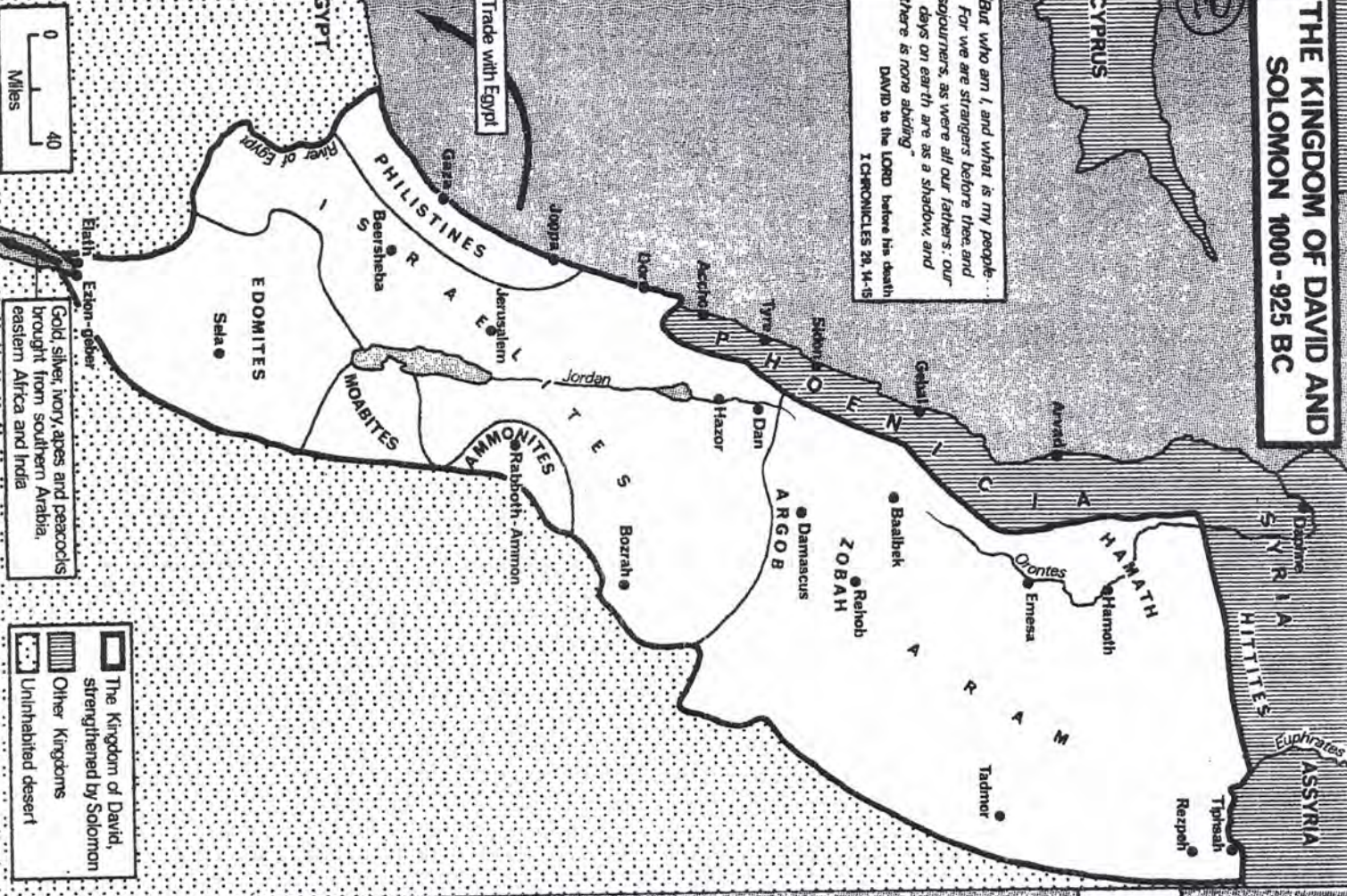
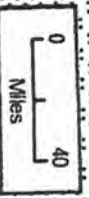


"And I will send an Angel before them... unto a land flowing with milk and honey"  
**EXODUS 23:23**



# THE KINGDOM OF DAVID AND SOLOMON 1000-925 BC

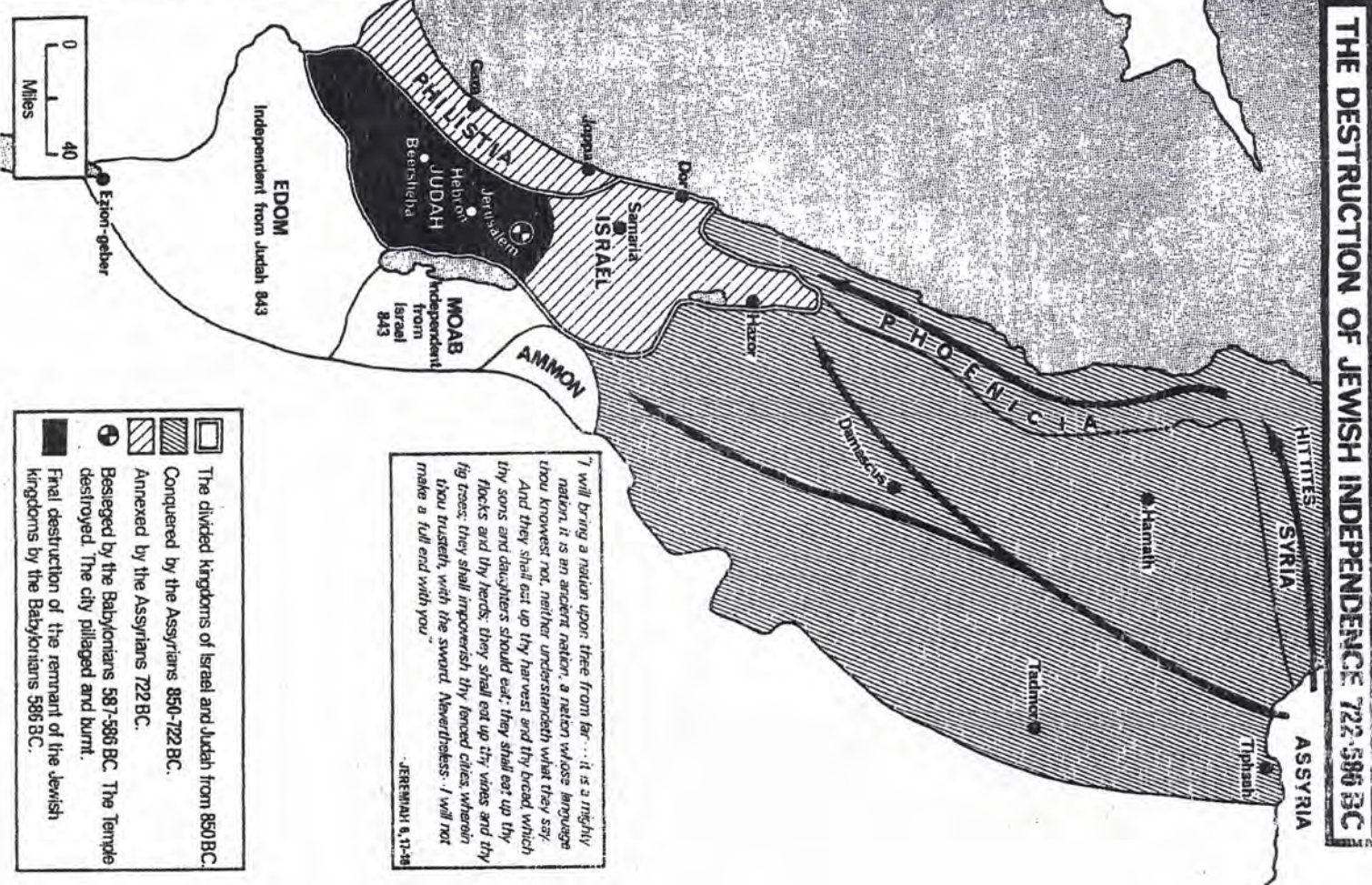
But who am I, and what is my people... For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding.  
DAVID to the LORD before his death  
1 CHRONICLES 29: 14-15



- The Kingdom of David, strengthened by Solomon
- Other Kingdoms
- Uninhabited desert

# THE DESTRUCTION OF JEWISH INDEPENDENCE 722-586 BC

*"I will bring a nation upon thee from far... it is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language thou knowest not, neither understandest what they say. And they shall cut up thy harvest and thy bread, which thy sons and daughters should eat; they shall eat up thy flocks and thy herds; they shall cut up thy vines and thy fig trees; they shall impoverish thy fenced cities, wherein thou trustest, with the sword. Nevertheless, I will not make a full end with you."  
- JEREMIAH 6: 17-18*

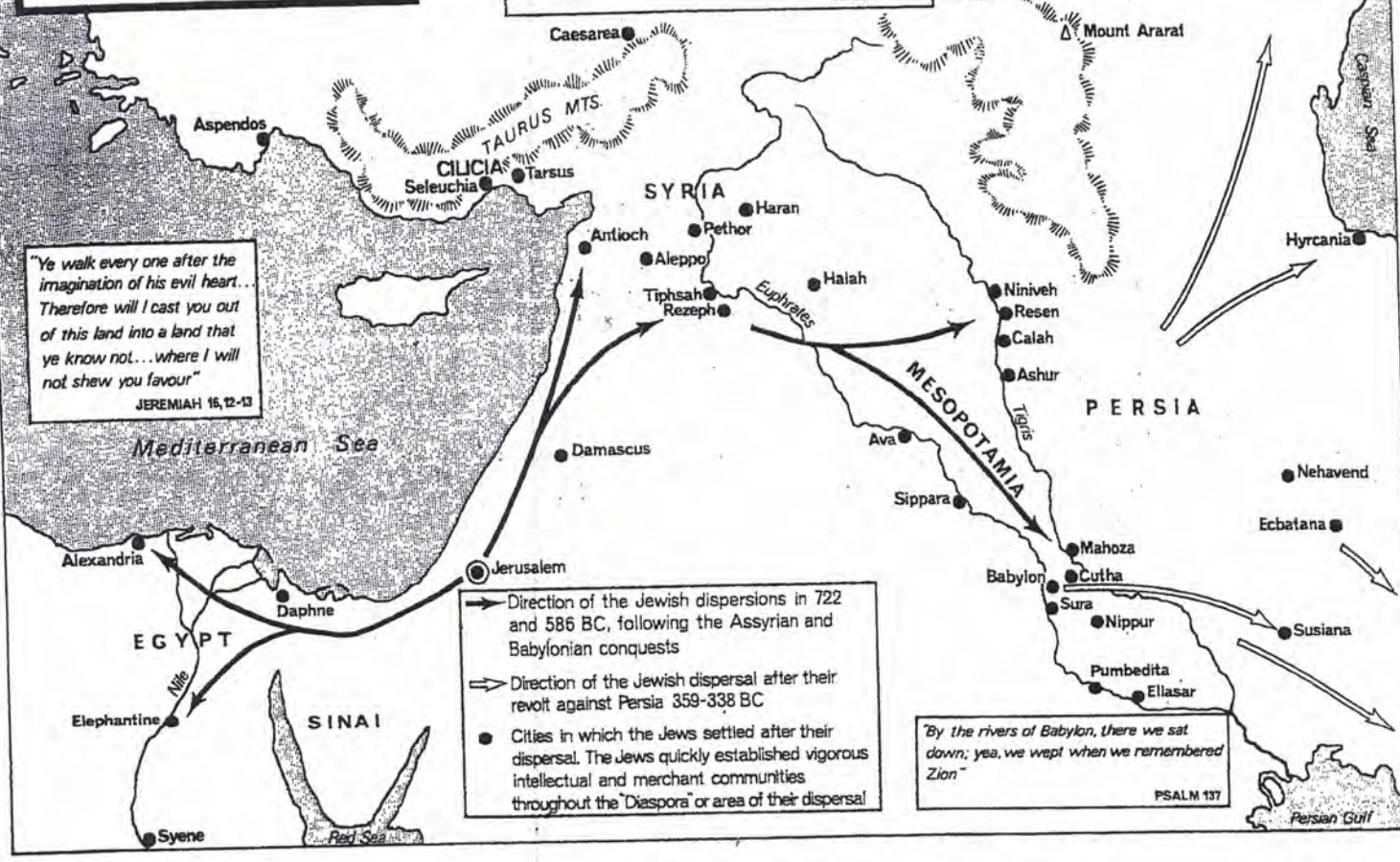
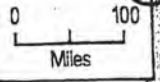


- The divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah from 850 BC.
- Conquered by the Assyrians 850-722 BC.
- Annexed by the Babylonians 587-586 BC. The Temple destroyed. The city pillaged and burnt.
- Final destruction of the remnant of the Jewish kingdoms by the Babylonians 586 BC.



# THE FIRST DISPERSIONS 722-586 BC

"Seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the Lord for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace"  
JEREMIAH 29:9



"Ye walk every one after the imagination of his evil heart... Therefore will I cast you out of this land into a land that ye know not... where I will not shew you favour"  
JEREMIAH 16, 12-13

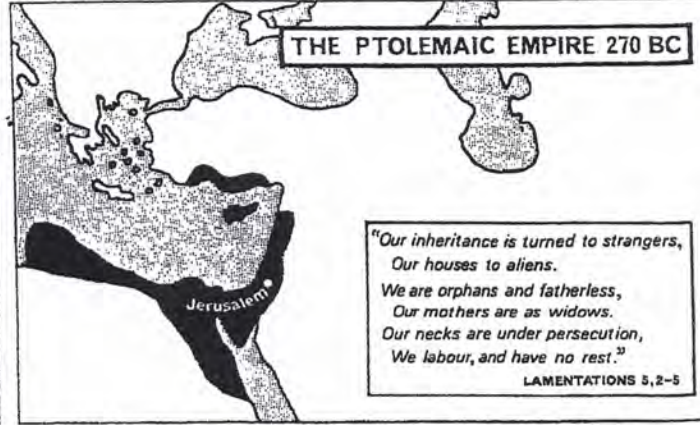
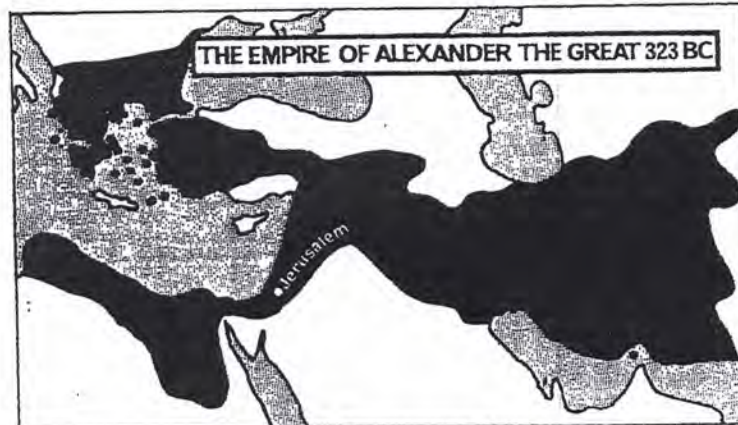
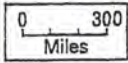
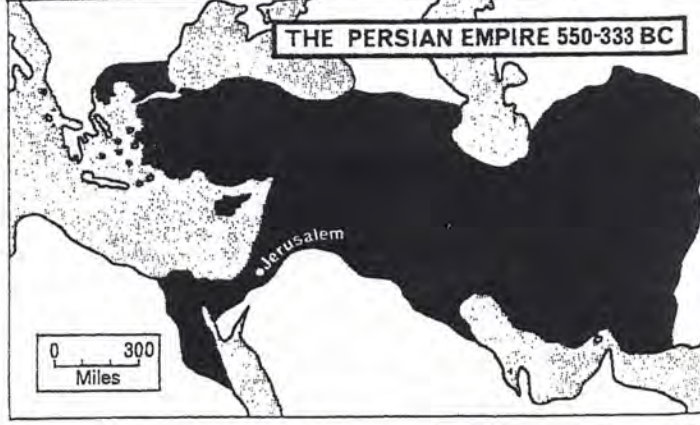
→ Direction of the Jewish dispersions in 722 and 586 BC, following the Assyrian and Babylonian conquests  
 ⇨ Direction of the Jewish dispersal after their revolt against Persia 359-338 BC  
 ● Cities in which the Jews settled after their dispersal. The Jews quickly established vigorous intellectual and merchant communities throughout the "Diaspora" or area of their dispersal!

"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down; yea, we wept when we remembered Zion"  
PSALM 137

# THE IMPERIAL POWERS 586-165 BC



"The virgin of Israel is fallen, She shall no more rise; She is cast down upon the ground, There is none to raise her up."  
AMOS 5-2



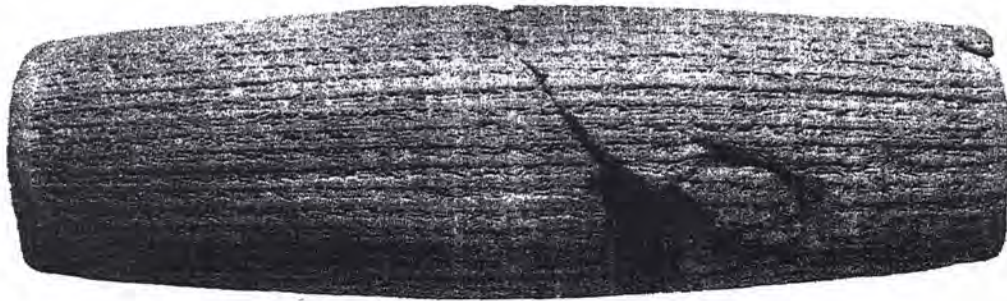
"Our inheritance is turned to strangers, Our houses to aliens. We are orphans and fatherless, Our mothers are as widows. Our necks are under persecution, We labour, and have no rest."  
LAMENTATIONS 5, 2-5

■ Empires controlling Jerusalem after the Assyrian conquest. The Jews gradually settled throughout the territory of the imperial powers.

Gidi L. Widiurini



# Cyrus Cylinder – The British Museum



From Babylon, southern Iraq. Babylonian, about 539-530 BC

A declaration of good kingship.

This clay cylinder is inscribed in Babylonian cuneiform with an account by Cyrus, king of Persia (559-530 BC) of his conquest of Babylon in 539 BC and capture of Nabonidus, the last Babylonian king.

Cyrus claims to have achieved this with the aid of Marduk, the god of Babylon. He then describes measures of relief he brought to the inhabitants of the city, and tells how he returned a number of images of gods, which Nabonidus had collected in Babylon, to their proper temples throughout Mesopotamia and western Iran. At the same time he arranged for the restoration of these temples, and organized the return to their homelands of a number of people who had been held in Babylonia by the Babylonian kings. Although the Jews are not mentioned in this document, their return to Palestine following their deportation by Nebuchadnezzar II, was part of this policy.

This cylinder has sometimes been described as the 'first charter of human rights', but it in fact reflects a long tradition in Mesopotamia where, from as early as the third millennium BC, kings began their reigns with declarations of reforms.



# THE HASMONEAN JEWISH KINGDOM 165-63 BC

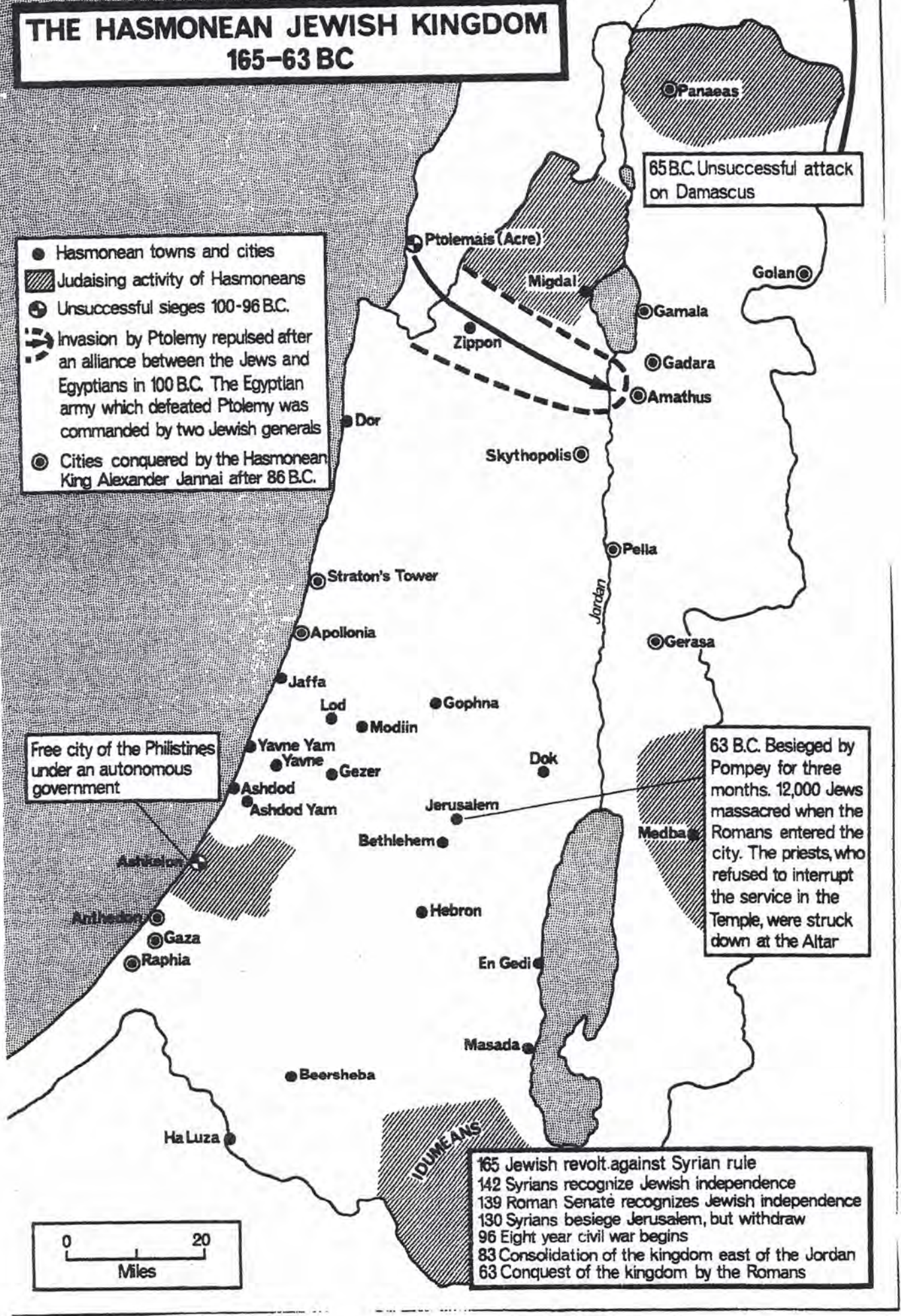
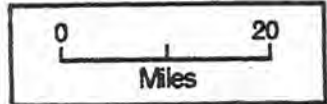
- Hasmonean towns and cities
- ▨ Judaising activity of Hasmonians
- ⊙ Unsuccessful sieges 100-96 B.C.
- ☛ Invasion by Ptolemy repulsed after an alliance between the Jews and Egyptians in 100 B.C. The Egyptian army which defeated Ptolemy was commanded by two Jewish generals
- ⊙ Cities conquered by the Hasmonean King Alexander Jannai after 86 B.C.

Free city of the Philistines under an autonomous government

65 B.C. Unsuccessful attack on Damascus

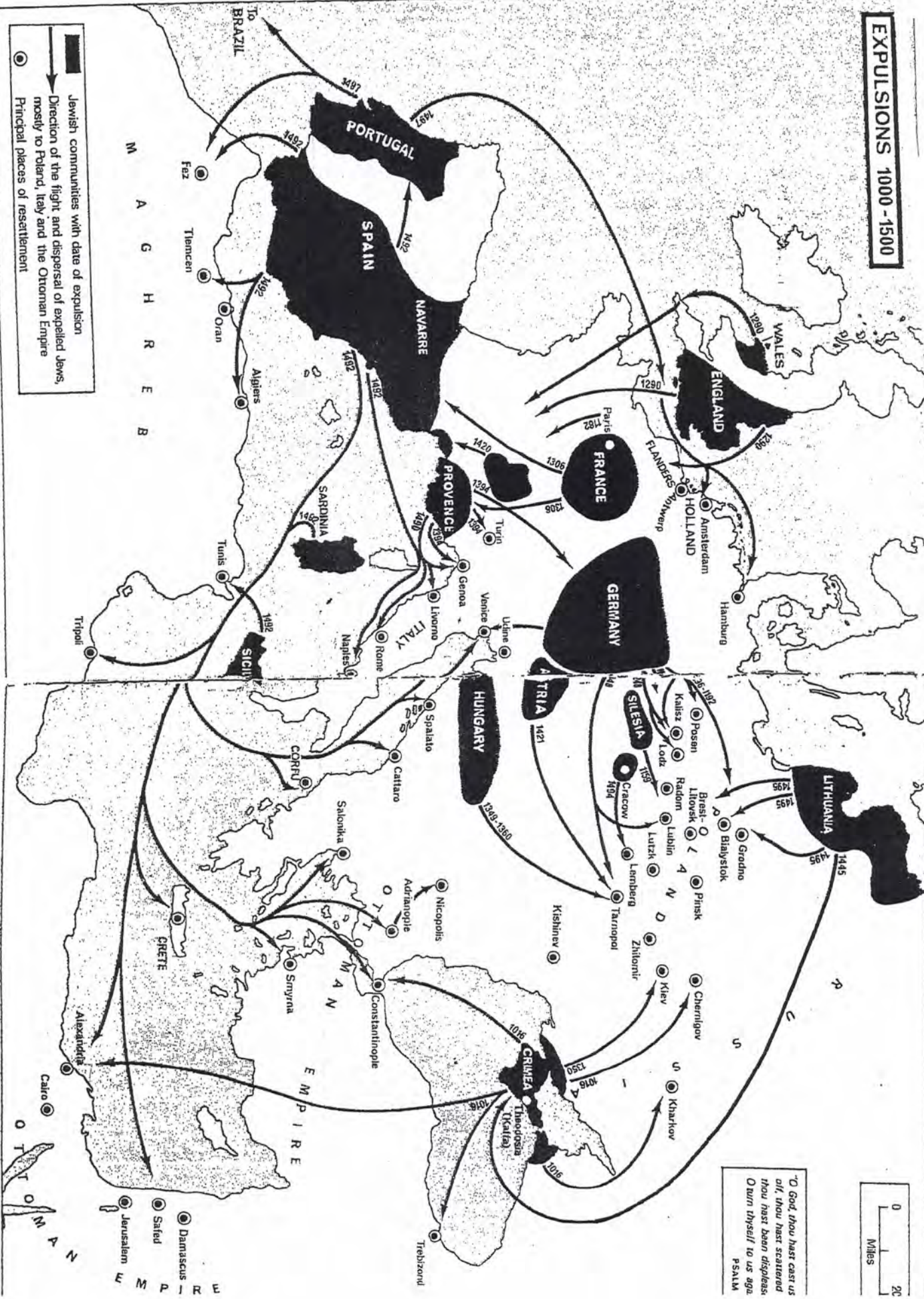
63 B.C. Besieged by Pompey for three months. 12,000 Jews massacred when the Romans entered the city. The priests, who refused to interrupt the service in the Temple, were struck down at the Altar

165 Jewish revolt against Syrian rule  
 142 Syrians recognize Jewish independence  
 139 Roman Senate recognizes Jewish independence  
 130 Syrians besiege Jerusalem, but withdraw  
 96 Eight year civil war begins  
 83 Consolidation of the kingdom east of the Jordan  
 63 Conquest of the kingdom by the Romans





EXPULSIONS 1000-1500

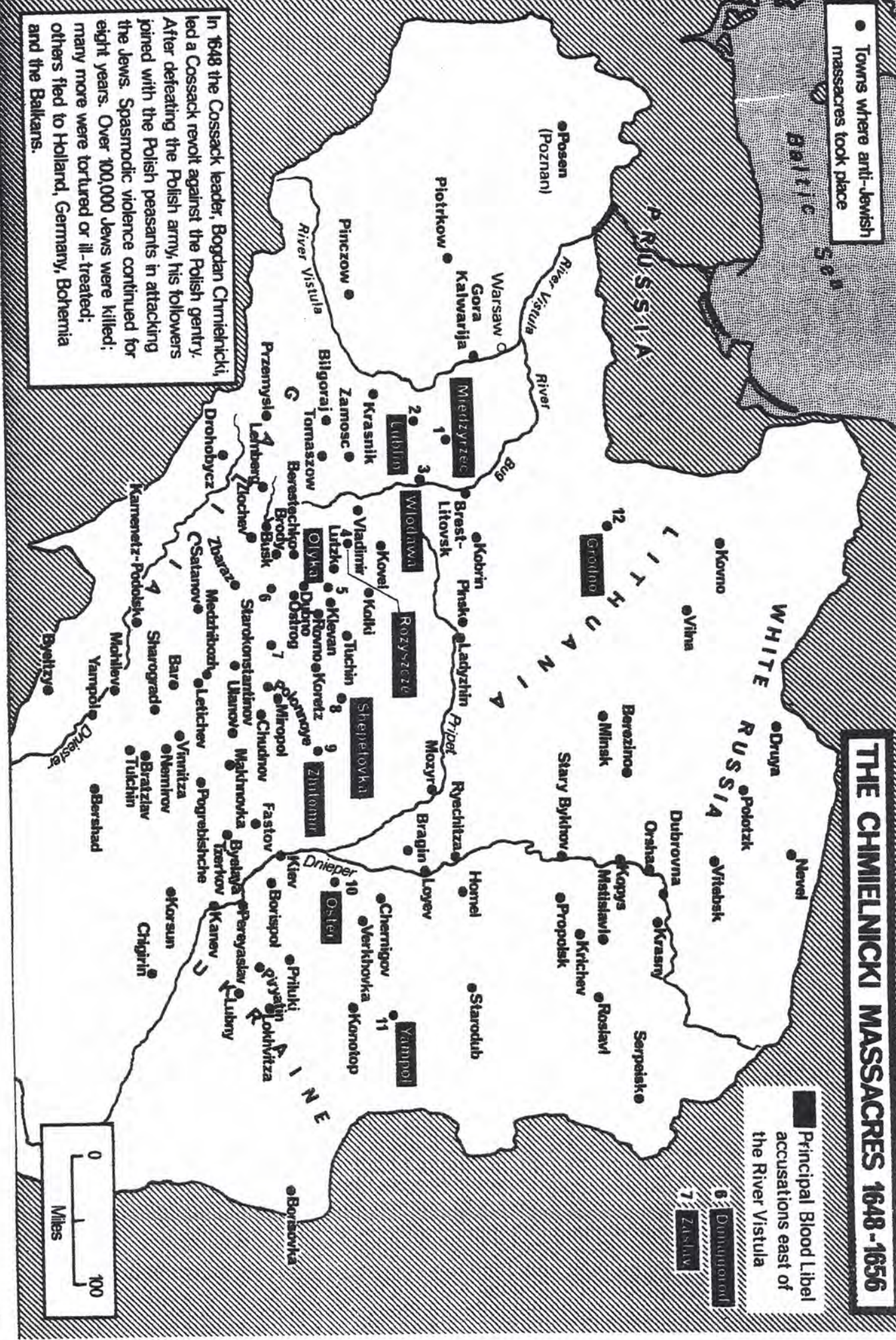




● Towns where anti-Jewish massacres took place

# THE CHMIELNICKI MASSACRES 1648-1656

■ Principal Blood Libel accusations east of the River Vistula



In 1648 the Cossack leader, Bogdan Chmielnicki, led a Cossack revolt against the Polish gentry. After defeating the Polish army, his followers joined with the Polish peasants in attacking the Jews. Spasmodic violence continued for eight years. Over 100,000 Jews were killed; many more were tortured or ill-treated; others fled to Holland, Germany, Bohemia and the Balkans.



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The Talmud is primarily a legal commentary upon the Mishnah. Naturally, the interpretation of difficult words or expressions forms a part of this commentary; but in the main the concern is with the legal matter (halakah). Every statement is scrutinized, every division of opinion traced to its source and principle. The discussion, as it grew in the course of generations, is faithfully reproduced, thus presenting a picture of cumulative layers of argumentation. The reader is taken into the atmosphere of the schools; he is made to witness the strenuous mental contests as proponent and opponent engage in thrusts and counter-thrusts. Constantly one is led from one subject to another, the very variety keeping the mind agile. The curt phraseology, half Hebrew half Aramaic, yields now and then to the easy flow of the Aramaic vernacular; the legal tone is dropped, and the strain is relieved by a succession of sententious sayings and quaint tales (haggadah). Sometimes the lighter matter covers several pages and even complete chapters. As a result of the ease with which transitions are effected, the Talmud becomes a veritable encyclopaedia, in which, over and above jurisprudence, there are found imbedded theology and esoteric theosophy, moral and natural science, medicine, mathematics, astronomy, history, legend, folklore. There are two sides to the Talmud—the one rigidly legalistic and intellectual, the product of critical analysis which penetrates to the bottom of things; and the other ethical, spiritual, appealing to the emotions. Jewish life as it developed came to rest wholly on the Talmud; by it religious practice was regulated, Jewish piety in every act and in every thought molded, and Jewish mentality kept wide-awake even in the darkest periods of general stagnation.

The immediate successors of the Amoraim called themselves Ponderers (Saboraim). It is by their hands that redactional improvements and a few additions were introduced into the body of the Talmud. During this transitional period, which lasted forty years (500–540), the Jews were subjected to fresh persecutions by the Persians. Kavadh I. (488–531) was a vigorous ruler and favored the communistic teachings of Mazdak which served him as a weapon against the nobles. The exilarch somehow clashed with this sovereign and was put to death. Nothing untoward happened during the reign of the orthodox Khosrau I. (531–579), called Anushirvan (the Blessed). His adjustment of the imperial taxation, which was later adopted by the Arabs, was equitable, and if for a



